



2022 Integrated Report Call for Data

Additional guidance for data submitters

This document provides additional guidance for submitting some of the more commonly collected and submitted water quality data. Additional information can be found in the [Water Body Assessment Guidance](#) (WBAG).

Nutrients/Sediment

Idaho does not have *numeric* criteria for nutrients or sediment. Therefore, DEQ does not make listing decisions based solely on nutrient or sediment data. In order to make assessment decisions using *narrative* criteria, DEQ must know the source of pollution (i.e., anthropogenic cause), the pathway for pollution to reach the water body, and the measurable adverse effect on a beneficial use. When submitting nutrient data, ensure that you specify what chemical component was measured (e.g., nitrate as N, nitrate + nitrite, etc.). Refer to section 5.1 of the WBAG for additional information.

Temperature

DEQ prefers the submission of continuous water temperature data. When submitting water temperature data, ensure that the logger deployment and retrieval dates are specified and indicate any times when data are suspect; for example, a logger was out of water or vandalism was suspected. Section 5.2 of the WBAG provides additional information on how DEQ assesses water temperature data.

Toxics

When submitting toxics data, ensure that the appropriate data are collected and submitted to compare to criteria. For example, our toxics criteria for cadmium, lead, and zinc are expressed as the dissolved fraction. Other toxics criteria require the collection of additional environmental data—ammonia requires pH and temperature data to calculate a criterion and hardness-dependent metals, like cadmium, require corresponding water hardness data. Section 5.2.7 of the WBAG provides more information on how toxics data are assessed and [IDAPA 58.01.02.210](#) provides the various toxics criteria.

Escherichia coli (*E. coli*)

Idaho's *E. coli* criterion is a geometric mean not to exceed 126 cfu (or mpn)/100 mL. The criterion is applied to a minimum of five samples taken within a 30-day period, with individual samples spaced at least 3 but no more than 7 days apart. When submitting *E. coli* data for § 303(d) listing or delisting purposes, ensure that the data meet these sampling requirements.

For additional information, contact Robert Esquivel at robert.esquivel@deq.idaho.gov or by phone at (208) 373-0153.